

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSC-05 /093 W

-----181805Z 063506 /50

P R 181147Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5675

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1281

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1356

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

MAPUTO FOR AMB YOUNG'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RZ, AO, HU, RH, XJ

SUBJ: SOUTHERN AFRICA IN ZAMBIA PRESS -- MAY 18

REF: LUSAKA 1318 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: BRITISH UNDERSECRETARY GRAHAM'S EXPLANATION OF THE
PURPOSE OF HIS MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA -- EXPLORATORY AND
EXPLANATORY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES TO THE ZIMBABWE
PROBLEM -- ; KAUNDA'S ADMONITION THAT SOUTHERN AFRICAN STRUGGLE
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SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A RACIAL ONE AND SUPPORT FOR ZAMBIA FROM
TANZANIA AND ANGOLA IN THE FACE OF THE RHODESIAN THREAT OF
PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES DOMINATED THE FRONT PAGES OF MAY 18 ZAMBIAN
DAILIES.

END SUMMARY

1. THE LEADER OF THE BRITISH-U.S. CONSULTATIVE MISSION ON

RHODESIA, JOHN GRAHAM, TOLD THE PRESS ON ARRIVAL IN LUSAKA MAY 17 HE HAD NO NEW MESSAGE FOR SMITH AT THIS TIME. GRAHAM SAID THAT HE WAS NOT IN LUSAKA TO DISCUSS SMITH'S THREAT OF PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST ZAMBIA (REFTEL), BUT "TO CONDUCT EXPLORATORY AND EXPLANATORY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES IN THE ZIMBABWE PROBLEM". GRAHAM SAID THAT ANYTHING THAT EMBITTERS THE CURRENT SITUATION AND ESCALATES THE CONFLICT WILL MAKE THE TASK OF ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT MORE DIFFICULT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT "AS FRIENDS OF ZAMBIA THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THOUGHT IT RIGHT TO PASS THE SMITH THREAT TO ZAMBIA WITHOUT COMMENTING ON THE AUTHENTICITY AND VALIDITY OF THE THREAT". GRAHAM EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WITH GENUINE AND SERIOUS EFFORTS NEGOTIATED MAJORITY RULE COULD BE ACHIEVED IN 1978. HAVING ALREADY TALKED WITH NKOMO, GRAHAM SAID HE WOULD TALK WITH THE OTHER PARTIES WHEREVER HE COULD FIND THEM AND WOULD VISIT SALISBURY FOR TALKS WITH THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDEIM'S REMARKS ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM MAPUTO MAY 16 THAT HE WOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO DEFUSE THE TENSION BETWEEN RHODESIA AND ZAMBIA BECAUSE SUCH ATTACKS WOULD CAUSE "A VERY SERIOUS ESCALATION" AND HIS PRAISE OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S "GREAT RESTRAINT AND WISDOM" WERE FRONT-PAGED. FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE'S REMARKS IN MAPUTO TO CONFERENCE DELEGATES THAT ZAMBIA WOULD NOT BE INTIMIDATED OR BLACKMAILED INTO INHIBITING OR CHANGING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE RHODESIAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT WERE NOTED.

3. SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY OF THE DAR ES SALAAM-BASED HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA GYULA BARANYI
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MAY 16 KAUNDA PRAISED THE "VERY WARM" TIMES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND URGED THEIR STRENGTHENING. KAUNDA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SUPPORT FROM THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, SUCH AS HUNGARY FOR THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE. HE SAID THE STRUGGLE "SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS A RACIAL ONE, BUT THE STRUGGLE SHOULD SEE A RECONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALIST STATES BECAUSE THE SUPPORT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES RENDERED TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE".

4. ON HIS ARRIVAL IN LUSAKA TANZANIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE RASHID KAWAWA, ACCOMPANIED BY THE TANZANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF G.N. KIWELU, REAFFIRMED TANZANIA'S POSITION THAT AN ATTACK ON ZAMBIA IS AN ATTACK ON TANZANIA AND THE REST OF AFRICA. THE DEFENSE MINISTER WAS CARRYING A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NYERERE TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA. TANZANIAN SUPPORT FOR ZAMBIA WAS REITERATED BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD FORUM WHO ARRIVED IN LUSAKA SEPARATELY FOR TALKS WITH THE ZAMBIAN FOREIGN OFFICE.

5. THERE WAS ALSO A REPORT OF A TELEGRAM TO ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE FROM ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAOLO JORGE CONDEMNING SMITH'S THREAT AGAINST ZAMBIA AND EXPRESSING ANGOLA'S VIEW THAT AN AGGRESSIVE ATTACK AGAINST ZAMBIA WOULD BE AN AGGRESSIVE AGAINST ANGOLA. JORGE SUGGESTED HOLDING OF MEETING OF THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

6. THE DAILY MAIL IN ITS EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION PRESENTS A CHALLENGE TO ALL ZAMBIANS TO ACHIEVE THE CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL UNITY AND ESCHEW THE EVILS OF TRIBALISM SO THAT "NO POWER ON EARTH WILL PREVAIL AGAINST US IF WE ARE UNITED AGAINST OUR FOES."

7. THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTS A TUESDAY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCE COMMUNIQUE FROM SALISBURY STATING THAT THREE RHODESIAN SOLDIERS, INCLUDING AN AMERICAN FROM CALIFORNIA, HAD BEEN KILLED
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IN THE LAST 24 HOURS. ON AN INSIDE PAGE THE TIMES CARRIED A GEMINI NEW SERVICE ACCOUNT FROM SALISBURY OF THE STATUS OF THE GUERRILLA WARFARE IN RHODESIA. ACCOUNT CITES RHODESIAN SOURCES AS ESTIMATING THERE ARE CURRENTLY 2,500 GUERRILLAS INSIDE RHODESIA WITH THE NUMBER LIKELY TO GROW TO 4,000 OVER TIME. DESPITE THE FACT THAT RHODESIANS DON'T EXPECT TO FACE A CLASSICAL WARFARE SITUATION ANY SOONER THAN IN A YEAR AND MOST LIKELY SOMEWHAT LATER, THE GUERRILLAS ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE AGGRESSIVE AND STAND AND FIGHT MORE OFTEN. WHILE THE LARGER NUMBER OF GUERRILLAS ON THE EASTERN BORDER HAVE BEEN THE FOCUS OF MOST OF THE DIFFICULTIES, GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTH AND WESTERN AREAS ARE STEPPING UP.

8. PRESIDENT KAUNDA PERSONALLY RECEIVED JAMICAN PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL SHRIDATH RAMPHAL AT THE LUSAKA AIRPORT MAY 17 ON THEIR ARRIVAL FROM MAPUTO IN A ZAMBIAN AIR FORCE PLANE. NOTHING WAS SAID IN THE PRESS ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE VISITS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770177-0133
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770544/aaaabmdb.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LUSAKA 1318
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2472709
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTHERN AFRICA IN ZAMBIA PRESS -- MAY 18
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, ZA, TZ, AO, HU, RH, XJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/79d7e390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009